

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2614 without my signature.

This bill would increase the deadline for the submittal of a bidder's prequalification documents from no fewer than five days, to no fewer than 15 days prior to the opening of bids for a public contract let by a school district. I understand that the intent of this bill is to give school districts additional time to review applications for prequalification. However, the law already allows school districts to require that the information be submitted earlier than the stated five days and therefore this change is both unnecessary and would reduce school district flexibility.

Further, the bill contains a requirement that bids be opened at the same time. While I understand this is intended to clarify existing law, my concern is that this provision could be construed as mandating a higher level of service and the State General Fund may be required to pay for this service. Since this is already common practice by school districts, I find no compelling need to mandate that bids should be opened at the same time and place.

For these reasons, I cannot support this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger